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General Assembly

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Human Rights Council election

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 on the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly outlined the terms of reference for the election of the members of the Council and decided that the election should take place on 9 May 2006.

II. Composition of the Human Rights Council

2. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the resolution, the Council shall consist of 47 Member States. The membership shall be based on equitable geographical distribution and seats shall be distributed among the regional groups as follows:

African Group	13
Asian Group	13
Eastern European Group	6
Latin American and Caribbean Group	8
Western European and Others Group	7
Total	**47**

III. Candidatures

3. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the resolution, the membership of the Council shall be open to all Member States of the United Nations. Member States which choose to inform the Secretariat of their candidature will be placed on a list of candidates to be circulated to all Member States for information purpose. The information should be sent to Room S-2925A.

4. Also in accordance with paragraph 8 of the resolution, when electing members of the Council, Member States shall take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto. Member States are encouraged to share such information with all other Member States and are invited to provide that information

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to the Secretariat for posting on the General Assembly website (<http://www.un.org/ga/60/elect/hrc/) in the original language received.

IV. Voting procedure

5. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the resolution, the 47 members of the Council shall be elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly.

6. The election will be held in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly on elections, namely, rules 92 to 94.

7. Member States which have obtained the votes of the majority of the members of the General Assembly in the ballot, namely, 96 votes, will be considered as elected. Balloting will be conducted for any remaining seats until all members of the Council are elected.

8. Consistent with the practice of the General Assembly, if more than the required number of Member States has obtained the votes of the majority of the members of the General Assembly on the same ballot, those Member States which have obtained the largest number of votes above the required majority will be considered as elected, up to the number of seats to be filled.

V. Terms of membership

9. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the resolution, the members of the Council will serve for a period of three years and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms. The term of office for the elected members shall therefore commence on the date of the completion of the election and expire after three years thereafter.

10. In paragraph 14 of the resolution, the General Assembly decided that the terms of membership shall be staggered and such decision shall be taken for the first election by the drawing of lots, taking into consideration equitable geographical distribution.

11. Consistent with past practice, the staggering terms for the drawing of lots shall be as follows:

	Number of seats for			
Regional groups	*One year*	*Two years*	*Three years*	***Total***
African Group	4	4	5	**13**
Asian Group	4	4	5	**13**
Eastern European Group	2	2	2	**6**
Latin American and Caribbean Group	2	3	3	**8**
Western European and Others Group	2	2	3	**7**
Total seats	**14**	**15**	**18**	**47**

12. Immediately after the completion of the election of 47 members, the drawing of lots for the staggering of terms of offices will be held by the General Assembly. In accordance with past practice, five boxes indicating the regions will contain the names of the Member States that have been elected. The President of the General Assembly shall draw the names one by one in accordance with the terms of office. All members of the Council shall be eligible for re-election for a full second term.